

The Leaflet



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CCFPD 75th Anniversary!

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District is celebrating its 75th Anniversary in 2023. The District was first established in 1948, to protect and manage the county's natural resources and provide recreational opportunities for local residents. In the years since, it has expanded to include 6 forest preserves, and a regional rail trail covering more than 4,000 acres throughout Champaign County, with amenities ranging from a museum, botanical garden, golf course, campground, interpretive center, and rental facilities. As part of this milestone celebration, the District will host several events throughout the year including guided hikes, educational programs, summer concerts and a special 75th Anniversary photo exhibit at the Museum of the Grand Prairie. Additionally, there will be self-guided events throughout the year, including a 75-mile trail challenge from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. Participants will cover 75 miles though the preserves in any combination of walking, running, hiking, paddling, and biking. Complete the challenge and receive CCFPD 75th Anniversary swag!

Ten ways to enjoy the preserves

- 1. Go for a hike** – The preserves offer over 45 miles of hiking trails to explore
- 2. Go paddling** – Get a different perspective of the preserves from the water

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- ➡ **9. Stargaze** – Come gaze about the stars at Illinois' only International Dark Sky Park, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve



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- 10. Learn something new** – We offer dozens of cultural and natural education programs through the Museum of the Grand Prairie and the Homer Lake Interpretive Center





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3. Hit the greens –
Go golfing at Lake of the Woods Golf Course

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

See the full program descriptions online, ccfpd.org

• FEBRUARY •

Thursday, February 23
SPECIAL EXHIBIT SPEAKER SERIES
THE HEALTH AND EQUALITY IDEALS:
THROUGH THE LENS OF HISTORY
AND PRESERVATION

Online Event, Streaming on the Museum of the Grand Prairie Facebook and YouTube pages, 7 p.m. FREE.

Saturday, February 25
MAPLE SUGAR DAYS
Homer Lake Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 10-11:30 a.m. & 12:30-2 p.m.
All ages. \$5 per person. Space is limited; registration required by February 23 at ccfpd.org. Register for the morning session or the afternoon session.

• MARCH •

Friday, March 3
DINOS & SCARY CREATURES
MINI GARDEN FOR HOMESCHOOLERS
Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 10-11 a.m.
\$10 per person. Ages 5-14. Space is limited; registration required by February 28 at ccfpd.org.

Saturday, March 4
DINOSAURS AND SCARY CREATURES
MINIATURE GARDEN
Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 12:30-1:30 p.m.
\$10 per person. Ages 5-14. Space is limited; registration required by February 28 at ccfpd.org.

4. Have a picnic –
Enjoy open space and fresh air with your family



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Friday, March 10 and Saturday, March 11
5th ANNUAL GOLF VOLUNTEER
CLEANUP DAY
Drop in anytime!
Sign in at the Pro Shop and enjoy a leisurely walk around our beautiful course, collecting sticks and winter debris. This is a great service opportunity for groups or youth or volunteers who are more comfortable in more manicured nature. This is tremendously helpful because our Audubon-certified, public golf course has far more trees than regular golf courses. We believe in the importance of the wildlife habitat, but it does come with greater challenges in getting the course ready for quality play in the spring. For more information, contact David Sebestik at dsebestik@ccfpd.org.

Friday, March 10
WALK WITH A NATURALIST
Picnic Shelter, River Bend Forest Preserve, 10-11:30 a.m.
FREE. All ages. Space is limited; registration required by March 9 at ccfpd.org. Bring your own binoculars if you have them; we will have some available to borrow as well.

Wednesday, March 15
WOODCOCK WALK
Buffalo Trace Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 6:45-8:15 p.m.
FREE. Recommended for ages 5 and up. Space is limited; registration required by March 22 at ccfpd.org.

Thursday, March 16
GARDEN SPEAKER SERIES ONE OF THE
FUNGAL FINAL FRONTIERS: FILLING IN THE
GAPS ON OUR KNOWLEDGE OF NORTH
AMERICAN MICROFUNGI (AND HOW YOU
CAN HELP!)
Online Event, Streaming on the Museum of the Grand Prairie Facebook and YouTube pages, 7 p.m. FREE.

Friday, March 17
CRAFTERS WORKSHOP: SPRING EDITION
Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 10-11 a.m.
\$5 per child. Ages 6-9. Space is limited; registration required by March 10 at ccfpd.org.



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5. Go camping – Set up camp at Middle Fork River Forest Preserve

Friday, March 17
CRAFTERS WORKSHOP: SPRING EDITION
Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 1-2:30 p.m.
\$5 per child. Ages 10-12. Space is limited; registration is required by March 10 at ccfpd.org.

Thursday, March 23
WOODCOCK WALK
Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 6:45-8:15 p.m.
FREE. Recommended for ages 5 and up. Space is limited; registration required by March 22 at ccfpd.org.

Saturday, March 25
INTERPRET THE PAST, EDUCATE THE
PRESENT: MUSEUM DOCENT WORKSHOP/
TRAINING
Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 2-4 p.m.
FREE. Ages 16 & up. RSVP by March 23 with Pat Cain at (217) 586-2612 or pcain@ccfpd.org.

Saturday, March 25
SPRING KRT VOLUNTEER CLEAN-UP DAY
10 a.m. - 12 p.m., late arrivals welcome.
(Rain date April 1)
This annual clean up of the winter trash along the KRT is great for all ages, and all skills levels. Most trash is off trail, so prospective volunteers should feel comfortable walking on uneven ground. Equipment provided. Sign in at the North-West Corner of the Urbana Walmart Parking Lot. Contact Sue Gallo for more details at sgallo@ccfpd.org or (217) 586-3360 or just come out!

Friday, March 31
GNOME HOMES & MYSTICAL CREATURES
MINI GARDEN HOMESCHOOL EDITION
Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 10-11 a.m.
\$10 per person. Ages 5-14. Space is limited; registration required by March 28 at ccfpd.org.

Summer Camps at CCFPD

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District (CCFPD) provides many summer camp opportunities for your children aged 3-17. A wide variety of topics allow campers to explore everything from history to golf to discovering nature.

CCFPD strives to provide the best experiences for our campers as possible; experiences that include enhancing existing interests, developing new skills through hands-on activities, all in a respectful and safe environment.

NEW ONE DAY CAMPS THIS YEAR:

POWERFUL POLLINATORS
Tuesday, June 6, 10-11 a.m.
Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve
Ages: 4-7 with adult. Fee: \$10. Questions: (217) 586-2612, mmontez@ccfpd.org.

A single bee can pollinate about 5000 flowers in one day! Monarchs fly 2500 miles through North America on their annual migration! Busy insects, small mammals and amazing birds are an important part of our ecosystem and our agriculture in Illinois. Let's celebrate pollinators by sharing their stories. Join us as we talk about the fascinating lives of pollinators and what they do for us.

TREES OF ILLINOIS
Wednesday, June 7, 10-11:30 a.m.
Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve
Ages: 8-11. Fee: \$10. Questions: (217) 586-2612, mmontez@ccfpd.org.

Let's spend some time out in the woods and examine trees such as oaks, maples and birches. We will learn their unique characteristics and create a miniature structure out of wood and found material.

GARDEN ART AND ACCESSORIES

Tuesday, June 13, 10-11 a.m.
Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve
Ages: 4-7 with adult. Fee: \$10. Questions: (217) 586-2612, mmontez@ccfpd.org.

You have your garden planted and now let the crafting begin. We will make our garden happy and bright with whimsical garden art projects for all to enjoy. Open up your crafty side to help your garden grow.

PRAIRIE PLANTS AND GARDEN PONDS
Thursday, June 15, 10-11:30 a.m.

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve
Ages: 8-11. Fee: \$10. Questions: (217) 586-2612, mmontez@ccfpd.org.

Prairies and waterways are important and beautiful parts of the Illinois landscape. Let's visit the prairie patch and garden pond at the Mabery Botanical Gardens. We will look to each ecosystem for inspiration to create unique arts and crafts.

PEEL, CHOP AND EAT!
Tuesday, June 20, 10-11 a.m.
Ages 4-7 with adult

Thursday, June 22, 10-11:30 a.m.
Ages 8-11

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve
Fee: \$10. Questions: (217) 586-2612, mmontez@ccfpd.org.

What's cooking in the summer kitchen? Let's gather some fruits and veggies and have a feast. Kids will use basic kitchen tools, cook and eat a variety of foods available at the local grocer. As we cook we will learn the origins of these foods and the people that cultivated them.

KNOW YOUR PLANTS AND FIND YOUR WAY! ESCAPE THE MABERY BOTANICAL GARDEN

Tuesday, June 27, 10-11:30 a.m.
Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve
Ages: 12-15. Fee: \$10. Questions: (217) 586-2612, mmontez@ccfpd.org.

Do you know your plants? Can you read a map? You'll need these two skills to find your way through the Mabery Botanical Garden. Find each marker and escape (or enjoy) the garden! Program may be cancelled due to weather.

Registration opens on March 8;
check out our website ccfpd.org
to see the whole line up of summer
camp offerings.

Camp Scholarships Available

Scholarships are available that cover half the cost of individual camps and are open to all children. If you are interested in receiving a scholarship for your child(ren) please email Stacey at sclementz@ccfpd.org.



6. Throw a party –
Rent one of our many facilities for a get together



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7. Go fishing – Reel in a big one at the best fishing spots in our area

8. Get involved – Participate in one or more of our volunteer programs or on a board or committee



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